



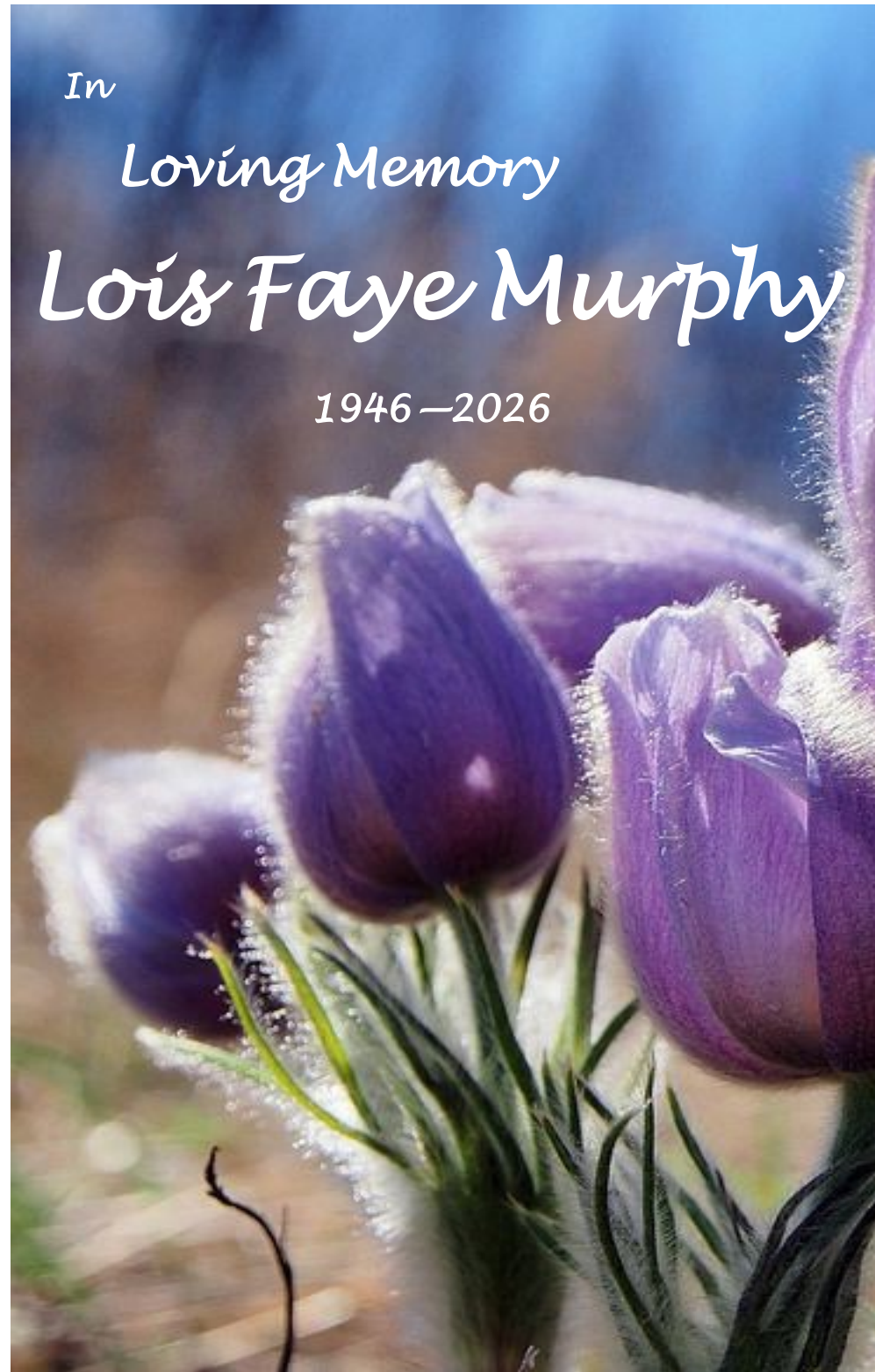
Lois was preceded in death by her mother, Vivian, father Andy, her brothers, Warren and Wayne, granddaughter Christine and great-grandson Hamada.

Lois is survived by her husband of 59 years, Owen, and her seven children, Shawn (Pat), Patrick (Robyn), Kevin (Tara), Kimberlyn (Peter), Catherine, Ryan (Nicole), and Michael (Julie), her cousin, Shirley, childhood friend, Gloria, and 33 Grandchildren (including their spouses), and 9 Great-Grandchildren.

*Arrangements have been placed in the care of
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Custer, South Dakota*

In
Loving Memory
Lois Faye Murphy

1946—2026



Lois met every chapter of her life, the uncertain ones and the joyful ones alike, with love, grace, and bravery. She inspired multiple generations of family, friends, and students as a woman who never let fear decide her path. Lois lived a life defined by courage, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to family and community.



*“May the roof of your house never fall in,
and those within it never fall out.”*

Old Irish Proverb

MAY THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED
Lois Faye Murphy

REST IN PEACE

June 26, 1946 August 12, 2026
Waverly, New York Custer, South Dakota

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL VIGIL
6:00 p.m., Friday, August 28, 2026
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Custer, South Dakota

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL MASS
10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 29, 2026
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Custer, South Dakota

CELEBRANT—Monsignor Michael Woster

CONCELEBRANT—Fr. Mark Horn

MUSIC—St. John's Music Ministry

PALLBEARERS
Justin Chlan, Rory Murphy, Melina Vom Saal

HONORARY PALLBEARERS—All of Lois' grandchildren

MEMORIALS
In lieu of flowers please make donations to
Alzheimer's research at: curealz.org

LUNCHEON—Parish Hall

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL COMMITTAL
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

A Life Remembered

Lois Faye Murphy, 80, of Custer, South Dakota, passed away on August 12, 2026.

Lois was born June 26, 1946, in Sayre, Pennsylvania to Andy and Vivian (Cowles) Bidlack joining her brother Wayne. Then, several years later, her younger brother Warren came along and she helped raise him, becoming like a second mother to him. With no sisters, she spent her childhood roller-skating and making tracks around the neighborhood with her friend Gloria and cousin Shirley. She didn't need a car; her horse, Brownie, was her mode of transportation.

Lois's love for animals began when she was a child, where she raised rabbits and showed them for 4-H. She carried this love through her entire life, especially the horses she broke, raised, and made into trail horses, all while teaching others to love riding as much as she did. As her kids grew up and started their own lives, Lois filled some of her time riding and teaching a new generation of horse enthusiasts, as well as going back to school to get a degree in animal husbandry. When kids came home, a ride with mom was always the best catch-up. Her signature line when training others was to always "keep your heels down!"

Lois became a jack-of-all trades by being dad's helper. She spent many hours learning everything he knew about handy work and enjoyed watching him tinker with whatever project he was working on from upholstery to masonry. She used those skills later in life making every home she lived in her own and took pride in being able to make the changes she desired. She could fix anything around the house and yard. Painting, plumbing, redecorating, building retaining walls. You name it, Lois could do it. She could visualize any project and make it come to life, including the blueprint for their retirement home.

As a young woman, Lois worked two summers at a children's dude ranch in Upstate New York, she loved any job where she could work or be around horses. During the last summer, she met several cowboy friends who promised adventure and education in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She left Pennsylvania with little more than a suitcase and eager anticipation of leaving a home she had never been more than 200 miles from and traveling 1500 miles by bus to a new life. Upon arriving in Aberdeen, she learned that the college she thought she would go to was no longer accepting out-of-state applicants. But, true to her grit and determination, Lois took the situation by the reigns found another school and took a job as a nanny to 5 children to support herself.

Lois loved photography and was rarely seen without a camera. During the homecoming parade in Aberdeen, she took a photograph of a beautiful team of horses pulling a wagon. Little did she know that the handsome cowboy driving that team would become her husband in the not-too-distant future. She was invited to a party by a friend of the cowboys who encouraged her to move to South Dakota, and that was the beginning of a relationship with

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the love of her life and partner to every future adventure, Owen Murphy. They married on August 26, 1967.the love of her life and partner to every future adventure, Owen Murphy. They married on August 26, 1967.

Together, Lois and Owen raised seven children across a map that stretched from California to South Dakota, Texas, Maine, and Minnesota, before finally returning to South Dakota to stay. At every new house, Owen and Lois set down roots and made a home for their family to flourish. They raised Shawn, Patrick, Kevin, Kimberlyn, Catherine, Ryan, and Michael to adulthood, meeting the demands of a growing family with the same grace and grit that carried her west as a young woman.

Her family was her first love, to which she poured her heart talent. Raising seven kids could be challenging at times, but Lois met the challenge head-on by making toys and games out of whatever was around providing hours of entertainment for all the kids in the area. There wasn't anything Lois couldn't make on her sewing machine. Some favorites were: beautifully made baby quilts, Halloween costumes, Christmas advent calendars, doll clothes, and cowboy/girl clothes. Her children's clothes were made with love and to their chagrin, they often had matching outfits.

Along with her sewing, she enjoyed gardening, taking pride in the beautiful landscape she created around every home. She shared gardening tips and plants with her sister-in-law, Gay, friends, neighbors, and her children. She spread her grandma's Pennsylvania rhubarb to every state she lived in and to anyone who wanted part of it. Lois grew potatoes, strawberries, and rhubarb outdoors; and shamrocks, Christmas cactus and others indoors. She experimented with growing plants less suited for the South Dakota climate and soil like avocados with mild success just for the fun of it.

In her later years, Owen and Lois opened a campground offering guided trail riding in the Black Hills National Forest. It was a fitting turn for a woman whose love of horses and the outdoors started with nurturing and shared experiences with her dad, and an adult life had set in motion by a chance meeting with some cowboys decades earlier. It was a return, in many ways, to where her story began.

Although Lois was not a teacher or nurse by trade, she taught, guided, and cared for every person that entered her life. Whether you needed help fixing or cleaning a house, help with a school project, or nursed back to health from sickness or broken bones, Lois was the first to volunteer her skills and time.

Throughout Lois' life her friendship and daily conversations with Jesus were the bedrock of her strength and resilience. Her faith began in childhood, attending church with her grandmothers, where she learned that prayer was just talking to a good friend. She carried this lifelong devotion into adulthood when she converted to Catholicism. She faithfully prayed for each person in her life.

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